

Remarks

Applicant elects, with traverse, Group III, the claims readable thereon being claims 1-3 and 7-19, which are drawn to a method comprising administering an IgA receptor antagonist, wherein the inflammatory condition is asthma or other condition cited in claim 7. Applicant further elects the species asthma for the specific condition and FcαR as the IgA receptor antagonist. This election is without prejudice to the Applicant filing divisional applications to the Groups I and II inventions.

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups I-III do not share a common technical feature in view of the Capra et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,063,905). We disagree as Capra et al. is not relevant to the present claims. Capra et al. describes a dimeric IgA antibody used to prevent viral infections. The theory is that by using passive immunoprotection, mucosal IgA antibodies may prevent entry of a virus into the body thereby preventing infection. Capra et al. does not teach that mesenchymal cells have IgA receptors and that this feature presents an opportunity to use IgA antagonists for the treatment of inflammatory disorders. The unity of invention amongst the 3 inventions is that each of the disorders listed in the application is inflammatory in nature and may be treated through the use of IgA receptor antagonists. It is also noted that the present application is a PCT national phase application. A unity of invention objection was not raised by the PCT Searching Authority. Further, all of the claims were searched by the Searching Authority. Therefore, there would not be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims. Finally, it is noted that in the office action dated August 13, 2007, the Examiner was of the opinion that claims 1-19 shared unity of invention. Accordingly, the election is made with traverse.

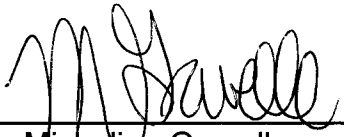
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees (including any claim fees) or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2095.

Appl. No. 10/520,284
Resp. Dated April 3, 2008
Reply to Office action of December 17, 2007

Should the Examiner like to discuss this matter, he is kindly requested to contact
Micheline Gravelle at 416-957-1682 at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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